GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4122
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2000
BIRD THREAT TO AIR FORCE STATION BANGALORE
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the threat from scavenging birds within 10 km. radius in Bangalore airport has caused much concern among the Air Force authorities;

(b) if so, whether the slaughter houses, residential complexes etc. have come closer to this Air Force Station;

(c) if so, whether the crash of MIG 21 at Delhi last month was also caused by a bird-hit; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): The unplanned and rapid urbanisation has resulted in concentration of human habitations in the proximity of Yelahanka Airfield, which is about 20 km away from Bangalore, and is under Air force control. Though, the average incidence of Bird-hit accident cases, at this Airfield, has remained one per year, stringent anti-bird measures have been adopted by the Indian Air Force, which have succeeded in keeping the bird activities at Yelahanka, under control.

(c) Yes, Sir, as per preliminary findings.

(d) The Government have introduced an amendment to the Aircraft Act, 1934 in 1988, making it a punishable offence to throw garbage or flay dead animals or open slaughter houses or carcass disposal plants within 10 km of airfields. Within the Air Force Bases, all round vegetation clearance has been undertaken by the Indian Air Force on regular basis. Besides this, the High Powered Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA), constituted under the Chairmanship of Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri, to analyse the cause of accidents, has, inter alia, made certain recommendations on environmental aspects, in its report, submitted in September, 1997, which are being implemented.